

**SECONDARY**  
**INSPECTORATE**

21.11.00  
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**NATIONAL INSPECTORATE UNIT - SETTING UP**

(No. B/318) **Dr. A. Boolell (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will say if the National Inspectorate Unit has been set up and, if so, will he make a statement thereon.

**Reply:** The hon. gentleman should refer to the reply I gave to P.Q. No. B/105 on 24 October last wherein I explained that through inadequate planning under the last Government, the setting up of a National Inspectorate has been delayed.

The whole concept of a National Inspectorate to service both State and Private Secondary Schools is being revisited and pedagogical inspections in all schools should resume early next year.

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3/04/01

(2)

### National Inspectorate - OPERATION

(No. B/122) **Mr M.Chumroo (First Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will state if the National Inspectorate, mention of which was made last year, is operational and, if so, will he state what it has achieved as far as pedagogical improvement is concerned.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Sir, as the hon. Member is well aware, an amendment to the Education Act was brought in August 2000 for the Ministry of Education to retrieve the powers previously delegated to the PSSA for pedagogical inspection in private secondary schools. In reply to P.Q. No. B/318 last year, I did express my surprise to the effect that the setting up of the National Inspectorate had not been properly planned beforehand.

My Ministry is presently consulting the Union of PSSA Inspectors with a view to finding a short-term solution with PSSA Inspectors joining a team of the Ministry of Education Officers to start pedagogical inspections anew in private secondary schools. The matter has dragged on because the PSSA Inspectors have requested some guarantees before joining and these are presently being considered. It is hoped that the PSSA Inspectors will join the Ministry of Education team within one or two weeks. In the meantime, a committee of my Ministry is presently revisiting the whole concept of a National Inspectorate. Should we proceed with plans for a National Inspectorate it should become operational by July/August this year.

**Mr Chumroo:** After the amendment which has been brought to the existing laws that the PSSA Inspectors may join the inspectorate, I suppose this has already taken place. This is what we understood last time. But so far, what are the inspectors doing at the PSSA at the moment?

**Mr Obeegadoo:** The hon. Member's guess is as good as mine. I'll explain again, Mr Deputy Speaker, that this is a most unsatisfactory situation. In August of last year, amendment to the Education Act was introduced whereby the powers which were delegated by the Ministry to the PSSA for pedagogical inspection in private schools were cancelled. Therefore, those powers were vested once again in the Ministry of Education. Now, when there was a change of Government, what we found was that there had been no prior planning. Although the concept of a national inspectorate had been aired, there was no formal structure, there were no detailed procedures for the transfer of PSSA inspectors to the Ministry. There were no details worked out as to how

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pedagogical inspection would resume at the beginning of the third term last year. That is why nothing was done. Since then, we have been looking for a short-term solution which would allow for pedagogical inspection in schools until we took a major policy-decision as to whether to proceed or not with the idea of a national inspectorate. The problem is that the PSSA inspectors were not, as we had anticipated, ready and willing to join the Ministry to do this job. So, there have been long and painful negotiations with the PSSA inspectors to define the terms and conditions under which they would be willing to get together with the Education Officers of the Ministry to go into schools. So, I am again very concerned, very unhappy by the present state of affairs, but as I say, we are landed with a situation which is not of our making and we are doing our very best to ensure that there is indeed, pedagogical inspection in private secondary schools, at least, by the beginning of the second term.

**Mr Chumroo:** The fact that we have already had divisions of education into regions, now that the education sector has been sub-divided, there already exists an inspectorate at the Ministry level. The inspectors at the PSSA could have joined them to start the work at least and not wait for that long.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** I hardly have to add to what I have said already, Mr Deputy Speaker. There exists a division into six educational regions for several years now. The PSSA inspectors were not willing to join the Ministry of Education inspectorate cadre unless and until the detailed conditions of employment were worked out.

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**INSPECTORS - NUMBER, TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, ETC.**

(No. B/780) Mr M. Chumroo (First Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to the National Inspectorate, he will -

- (a) state its achievement since its coming into operation to date;
- (b) give the number of inspectors forming part thereof, indicating their terms and conditions of service, and
- (c) table a list of the inspections carried out so far in -
  - (i) private schools, and
  - (ii) State schools.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Sir, as I indicated in reply to PQs B/105 and B/122 last year, a most unsatisfactory situation was created in July 2000 following the decision of Government to amend the law to retrieve the delegation granted to PSSA for pedagogical inspection in private secondary schools. The national inspectorate is not presently operational. What we have is an administrative arrangement whereby the PSSA inspectors are operating under the guidance of an Assistant Director at the Ministry of Education for pedagogical inspection of private secondary schools. The National Inspectorate *per se* is a complex issue precisely because we have rope in the inspectorate cadre of the PSSA. This is a lengthy process fraught with procedural delays. The latest indications are that we will have to make do with the present administrative arrangements for some more time while consultations with the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs and the Union of PSSA Inspectors are carried out and schemes of service are amended. I expect that the National Inspectorate will be operational early next year.

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(No. B/780 ctd....)

As regards the second part of the question, there exist on the establishment, 28 posts of inspectors for the National Inspectorate of which at least 12 are to be filled soon. In the meantime, the services of 11 PSSA Inspectors have administratively been made available to my Ministry as from April 2001 for pedagogical inspection of private secondary schools.

I am arranging for a list of private secondary schools inspected to be circulated. As regards State schools, pedagogical inspection is still being carried out on an *ad hoc* basis as has been the practice in the past, by officers of the grade of Principal Education Officer and Senior Education Officer, pending the final setting up and coming into operation of the National Inspectorate. (Appendix I).

**Mr Chumroo :** May I ask the hon. Minister what are the terms and conditions in future, that is, as from January 2002, of the PSSA inspectors, who are at present working under the inspectorate?

**Mr Obeegadoo :** This is indeed the crux of the matter because, at the present time, as I have said earlier, the PSSA inspectors are located at my Ministry and are carrying out, under the supervision of an Assistant Director at the Ministry of Education, inspectorate duties. Now, the coming into operation of a National Inspectorate presupposes that we will have a merged team of PSSA inspectors and cadres to be recruited from Principal Education Officers and Senior Education Officers who will be called Secondary School Inspectors. Now, how do you merge a category which is composed of employees of a parastatal body with public servants proper? That is why I have said, it is very complex. We are discussing with the Ministry for Civil Service Affairs and with the Union of PSSA Inspectors to provide for the coming together of these two categories.

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22 APR 2003

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D06P04CO5

**NATIONAL INSPECTORATE -  
VISITS EFFECTED TO SCHOOLS**

(No. B/215) Dr. S. Chady (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to the National Inspectorate, he will state -

- (a) the number of inspectorates, region-wise, both in the public sector and for the PSSA, and
- (b) the number of visits which has been effected region-wise, during the first quarter of this year, indicating the names of the schools visited.

**Mr Obegadoo:** Sir, the National Inspectorate is being set up in order to provide standard operating procedures for assessing and evaluating the school system at all levels and in all types of schools namely pre-primary, primary and secondary, both State and private. The purpose is to establish quality assurance and performance appraisal strategies and focus on educational provisions, educational practice, educational outcomes and to organize appropriate training where necessary.

Going back to the philosophy of a National Inspectorate, I would like to work to inform the House that much preliminary works in terms of quality, assurance *'en amont'* of the setting up of the National Inspectorate has now been cleared, which was not the case when the project was announced previously by my predecessor. The National Inspectorate has mounted several short courses for fresh graduates joining the teaching profession, short courses on School Management and Quality Assurance. It has also proposed a framework for quality assurance and performance oriented appraisal.

**Mr Speaker,** Sir, the mission of the national inspectorate is to create conditions that will allow teaching to unlock the potential of learners. We have to depart from the classical model of inspection that concentrated on the teacher's competencies. The focus now is on the process and the learning outcomes.

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**PQ No. B/215 (contd)**

The abolition of ranking at CPE level imposes a paradigm shift. While the teacher has to cater for those who need accelerated learning, he has to ensure that those who are otherwise able learners are helped to learn effectively through a variety of strategies. Inspection has to rise to the challenge of facilitating this reform. Let us recognize that pedagogical reforms will take place at a pace that is slower than the structural reforms. Habits take time to change. That is why during the Easter vacations workshops are being held in all four zones to induct teachers who have been observed during the first term into learning a variety of strategies to assist our children who have different learning styles to learn at their own pace in the midst of learners of mixed abilities. These workshops that are run by Inspectors bring new dimensions of awareness to our teachers.

With regard to part (a) for the number of inspectors region-wise in the primary sector, there are 10 Inspectors in Port Louis/North, 10 in Lower Plaine Wilhems/East, 7 in Curepipe/South and 7 in Vacoas/Phoenix/Quatre-Bornes West, whilst in the secondary sector, there are 11 pedagogical inspectors for both private and State schools. My Ministry is in the process of recruiting 28 more inspectors.

Regarding part (b) of the question, the information is being compiled and will be laid in the library.

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P.Q. No. B/215 (cont'd)

**Dr. Chady:** Sir, the Minister has given a long reply, but he has not answered the question. I also asked about the visits effected during the first trimester of this year. Have there been five or ten visits?

**Mr Obeegadoo:** The information is being compiled, Mr Speaker, Sir. I can assure the hon. Member that there have been more than 10 visits in every zone. Visits are effected both in State and private primary and secondary schools. Information is being compiled – this takes time – and it will be placed in the Library. My hon. friend will be free to come back with a substantive question in the light of the information provided.

**Dr. Chady:** Will the Minister include in the information, the names of the Inspectors, the schools and time the visits were effected?

**Mr Obeegadoo:** The information which is being compiled will state zone-wise for primary and secondary, the number of visits and the names of the schools.

**Dr. Chady:** Has there been a report on the performance of students and teachers during the first trimester and, if yes, would he table it?

**Mr Obeegadoo:** No such report has ever been prepared, even by the previous Government, as the hon. Member might know. In any case, with the National Inspectorate, we now have a powerful instrument to evaluate the teaching and learning process. When the appropriate evaluation is over - which is not the case yet - I will be delighted to make a statement before the House.

**Dr. Chady:** From what the Minister said, it seems that there has not been any evaluation for this trimester. But in the first part of his answer, the Minister said that the very purpose of the National Inspectorate is to conduct inspections and to evaluate standards and performance.

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P.Q. No. B/215 (cont'd)

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, let me make it very clear. There has never been a National Inspectorate in this country. We have never had a National Inspectorate. It was announced by my predecessor, who, for reasons which the hon. Member well knows, was not in a position to do anything further. We are in the process of setting up a National Inspectorate. But that is not done in one day, in one week or in one month. We are in the process of setting up a National Inspectorate and whenever an evaluation, as mentioned by the hon. Member, is ready, I will make a statement before the House. That is a commitment I am willing to take.

**Dr. Chady:** Being given the fact that we have undergone a major reform in the education sector, the Minister would agree with me that parents, teachers and everyone are expecting concrete results for this trimester.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** The concrete results are there. Mr Speaker, Sir, in terms of broadening access, in terms of the sheer number of students admitted to State secondary schools. The figures have doubled since January 2000. In terms of broadening access, the results are there and the hon. Member knows very well what are these results. In terms of quality assurance, as I have just explained, pedagogical reform takes more time than structural reform, but the results will certainly be there for all to see in due course.

**Mr Dulloo:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the PSSA is almost cut off now from the educational institutions because there had been no regular visits from the Inspectorate to monitor the situation? The problem is that a few educational institutions are not able to adjust to the new reforms and the new system being put into place.

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D06P05cl/3

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P.Q. No. B/215 (cont'd)

**Mr Obeegadoo:** I thought that the hon. Member had understood that there is now one single National Inspectorate based at the headquarters of the Ministry of Education. The PSSA no longer deals with pedagogical inspection. However, there is a body of supervisors - and, indeed, there is a recruitment exercise taking place right now to build up a team of supervisors - who will carry out non-pedagogical inspections in all private secondary schools of the land.

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